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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 October 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Niculescu ..... (Romania)
later: Mr. Hanif (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Pakistan)
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00-70917 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 94: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

(c) Cultural development (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.10

1. **Mr. Svetogorsky Marino** (Uruguay) introduced the draft resolution on cultural development on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and urged its adoption by consensus.

Agenda item 99: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/55/74, A/55/139-E/2000/93, A/55/257-S/2000/766, A/55/310, A/55/375, A/55/407)

2. **Mr. Murat** (Haiti) said that poverty was related to questions of security, vulnerability, identity, integration and culture as well as with income. Poverty meant an inadequate standard of living, fragile health, sub-standard housing or homelessness, unemployment, social exclusion and illiteracy. Extreme poverty was a relentless killer, as well. In response to that scourge, the international community at the World Summit for Social Development had reaffirmed that the right to development, which involved the eradication of poverty, was a fundamental human right.

3. In the context of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 1997-2006, early efforts had been hampered by a number of factors including the slowdown in economic growth in the developing countries as a result of the Asian financial crisis and the drop in commodity prices. The goal set at the Millennium Summit to reduce extreme poverty by half by 2015 seemed to be slipping out of reach.

4. In the face of growing inequalities between rich and poor countries, the Decade had been a welcome initiative. However, after the first three years of its implementation, there was reason to fear that it would suffer the same fate as the four United Nations Development Decades, with their well-known record of broken promises.

5. Creditor countries had made an effort to relieve the debt of the poorest countries through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the enhanced Cologne initiative of 1999. The effects, however, had been limited, and his delegation would like to see more generous and flexible terms under the Cologne initiative for the 48 least developed countries. More emphasis should be placed on micro-credit, which had proven to be an effective means of creating jobs and promoting self-sufficiency among the poor. Combating poverty required sustained economic growth that would create productive employment.

6. Trade liberalization and globalization of economies should open new avenues to all countries, yet the poor countries had difficulty in taking advantage of the situation. His delegation therefore called for a commitment by the international community to help the poor countries to adapt their institutions to the new trading environment through strengthening of their production capacity, improved access to developed country markets for their commodities, and the establishment of a mechanism for transfer of technology. Combating poverty called for mechanisms to promote partnerships at both the international and the national levels. The eradication of poverty would no longer be a dream if political will, solidarity and partnership were brought to bear.

7. **Mr. Kuindwa** (Kenya) said that, since the Copenhagen Summit, many countries had set national poverty reduction targets and formulated poverty eradication plans and strategies, including his own. In Kenya, poverty was pervasive; half of the population was poor, and the majority of the poor were women. The Government had undertaken measures to promote economic recovery and sustainable growth. At the core of the process had been the creation of a conducive environment for an economy to thrive, the pillar of which was peace and political stability.

8. Its efforts had been hampered by internal and external factors, including poor infrastructure, lack of capital and technology, poor health conditions and the spread of HIV/AIDS. While globalization enhanced communications, growth and development of the world economy, the resulting rapid change had been accompanied by increased unemployment, poverty and social disintegration. The ability of developing countries to participate fully in the World Trade Organization would be a determining factor in their efforts to reduce poverty.

9. His delegation called on the United Nations to strengthen its development agencies to enable them to fulfil their mandates. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should be better prepared to address shelter issues. Sub-standard housing was an

indicator of poverty in rural and urban areas alike, and his delegation therefore supported the target regarding a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 set forth in the Millennium Declaration. It also called on the United Nations to play a more active role in poverty reduction initiatives by ensuring that Member States met their financial commitments, in particular by achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance.

10. **Mr. Svetogorsky Marino** (Uruguay) noted with a sense of sadness that over a billion people lived on less than a dollar a day, and that, if the current scenario of slow economic growth and intermittent crises persisted, the number was unlikely to drop in the near future. Recent discussions on poverty reduction were well-meaning, but in reality, little had been achieved over the past 20 years.

11. Combating poverty should be the priority goal of the Organization; the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty had therefore been very encouraging. That task was an ethical, social, political and economic imperative for the United Nations.

12. In order to combat poverty, greater investment must be made in human resources and programmes should be directed at the most disadvantaged groups and at young people. By appealing to their idealism, creativity and vitality, it should be possible to enlist them in the fight to eradicate poverty. Studies conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicated that young people did not consider taking up farming as a profession because they associated it with hard physical labour and low pay. The World Food Programme and FAO had made joint recommendations that Governments should establish programmes to improve living conditions in rural areas in order to encourage young people to live and work there.

13. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea) said that in addition to globalization, the debt burden and declining official development assistance, armed conflict was a major contributing factor to the deepening poverty of developing countries. Armed conflicts in neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia over the past decade had led to an influx of more than 700,000 refugees into his country and that had had an impact on the standard of living of the host population and had led to an economic slow-down. The Government had been forced to reallocate funds away from the development and social sectors in order to secure its borders and conduct peacekeeping operations. The international community should spare no effort in combating the warmongers, who were, in effect, "poverty mongers" as well. Had the $2.1 billion which had been allocated for peacekeeping activities worldwide in 2000 alone been invested in development projects, humanity would have gone a long way towards eradicating poverty.

14. His Government was trying to lower the poverty rate from 40 per cent of the population to 30 per cent by 2010. To reach that goal, it had initiated reforms designed to strengthen the macroeconomic framework, ensure efficient management of public resources and improve the climate for the private sector and was focusing on the rural sector, as the poorest segment of the population lived in rural areas. Community participation in development efforts had been encouraged, and had led to significant improvements in school enrolment, health care coverage, transport infrastructure and access to safe drinking water in rural areas.

15. His Government had also benefited from the HIPC debt reduction initiative, and was planning to use the resulting resources to finance poverty reduction programmes. In closing, he expressed his country's gratitude to its bilateral and multilateral development partners for their substantial contributions.

16. **Ms. Bai** Yongjie (China) said that, at the midpoint of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, populations of the developing countries were daily struggling to survive. The Millennium Summit goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income was less than one dollar a day, should become a Decade target as well. Poverty eradication efforts must address the root causes of poverty; the only way to escape poverty was through development. Impoverished populations would bear the brunt of the adverse effects of blind globalization, and those who had overcome poverty would be the first to fall back into its clutches in the event of financial turbulence. Urgent long-term measures must therefore be formulated with a view to the effective management of globalization and the equitable sharing of its benefits.

17. Her delegation supported the poverty reduction measures outlined by the Secretary-General. Poverty eradication was the shared responsibility of all and required coordinated international action. National governments should accord priority to poverty eradication in their economic and social development strategies, taking into account the specific needs of their countries. The international community, in turn, must create a supportive external environment by expanding the export opportunities of and transferring technology to the developing countries and providing the financial assistance they needed to combat poverty. The developed countries, in particular, should raise the level of official development assistance to the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product and reduce and/or cancel developing countries' debts. At the same time, multilateral financial institutions must be reformed in order to enhance their support for the poverty reduction efforts of developing countries. The United Nations system should play a key role in poverty eradication by maximizing the comparative advantages of its specialized agencies and strengthening coordination and cooperation among them.

18. Since the early 1970s, her Government had made tremendous efforts to alleviate poverty thereby helping 200 million farmers to achieve food security. Under a poverty reduction programme carried out in the past five years in consultation with various actors, China had invested sizeable resources to help poor regions improve farmland, develop skills, build irrigation and water supply infrastructure and stabilize and manage the environment. The number of poor people in the rural areas had been reduced by 8.6 million annually and it was estimated that the figure would go down by another 10 million in 2000. While the situation of the poor had improved in terms of housing, health, education and access to science and technology, and while sweeping changes had been made in the economic and social sector, China nonetheless remained a low-income developing country with a very limited capacity to provide for the basic needs (food and clothing) of its population.

19. *Mr. Hanif (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

20. **Mr. Tomás** (Mozambique) noted that 1.2 billion people were living on less than $1 a day; another billion were illiterate; more than 1 billion lacked access to clean water and 2.5 billion, to sanitation; over 110 million children of primary school age were not in school; and pandemic diseases, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), were claiming millions of lives around the world. The Millennium Summit target of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income was less than one dollar a day and of those unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water could be met if the international community showed the necessary political will. His delegation urged Member States to build on the momentum of the Millennium Summit and forge a practical and innovative partnership for implementing its Declaration.

21. The persistence of absolute poverty at the time of steady global economic growth was politically embarrassing and morally unacceptable. The fact that different countries were participating in the global economy at different levels of development led to inequities and marginalization. Ways must be found to ensure that the benefits of globalization were evenly distributed and that globalization had a human face. That could be achieved only through increased official development assistance and foreign direct investments; improved access to world markets; debt cancellation; and reform of the United Nations system in order to enhance its effectiveness in development assistance. In that connection, his delegation was deeply concerned that official development assistance was at a record low — 0.2 per cent of the total gross national product of the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), that the least developed countries had received only 0.12 per cent of foreign direct investment in 1998 and that the countries benefiting from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and other arrangements still had no significant resources for investment in the social sector. He urged the international community to respond to that situation.

22. Poverty in Mozambique had been compounded by severe flooding earlier in the year. According to the *Human Development Report, 1999*, nearly two thirds of the population lived in absolute poverty; some 65 per cent had no access to safe drinking water, sanitation and health services; and some 25 per cent of some children under three years of age were underweight. Poverty eradication was the backbone of his Government's five-year plan for the period 2000-2004. The Plan of Action for the Eradication of Absolute

Poverty, adopted in 1999, was designed to reduce absolute poverty by 30 per cent by the year 2010 through rapid and sustainable economic growth; the development of human capital through public investment; increased agricultural productivity; the development of basic infrastructures in rural areas; the provision of social security to the most vulnerable groups; the promotion of employment and self-employment in the rural and urban areas; and improved national capacity to monitor and evaluate poverty. The Plan had been formulated in consultation with all social actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society at large. In conclusion, the international community must fulfil the commitments undertaken at the Millennium Summit or risk losing credibility. While poverty eradication programmes should be locally designed and owned, international cooperation and assistance were necessary to implement them in poor countries which lacked sufficient resources for that purpose.

23. **Mr. Avrahamy** (Israel) said that the only way to ensure emergency food aid — particularly when resettling displaced populations, eradicate poverty and attain basic food security was to encourage countries to enhance their primary sector through the introduction of agricultural technology. There was no short cut to the attainment of food security; it required basic investments in water development, conveyance and distribution, the accelerated training of farmers and the organization of support systems to ensure timely delivery of farm inputs, storage facilities and market outlets. As major water projects had been found to be unmanageable and often harmful to the environment, the challenge facing world agriculture would be to adopt the innovations of the agricultural, educational and environmental sciences but maintain decentralized systems of food storage.

24. In the past decade, the Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel had launched a number of demonstration projects in semi-arid regions, designed to teach more efficient and modern agricultural techniques to farmers in less developed areas. In that connection, the efficient use of water was promoted through the collection and storage of rainwater and the installation of pressure irrigation systems. Israel was in the process of developing an innovative mini-sprinkler and drip-irrigation system which could be used by farmers to construct their own small water collection and storage facilities for market gardens. His Government was seeking the cooperation of donor countries and United Nations bodies in order to introduce a large-scale programme to develop small and medium-sized demonstration projects in vulnerable regions, including Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Such projects could be tailored to local conditions and would constitute a preliminary step in the promotion of interdisciplinary action to reduce poverty.

25. **Mr. Htoo** (Myanmar) said that his delegation was encouraged by the convergence of views among the United Nations agencies and Bretton Woods institutions with regard to poverty eradication and believed that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers of the World Bank would address the problem in an appropriately holistic and cohesive manner. In order to make inroads against poverty, growth prospects for developing countries which had emerged since the Asian financial crisis must be sustained over the long term, however, while economic growth was a vital precondition for poverty reduction, a concerted multi-pronged approach was needed as well. Strategies must be aimed at ensuring access to basic social services and education and capacity-building of the poor, including access to productive resources, incentives to small and medium-sized enterprises, microcredit and strengthened food security. Poverty reduction strategies must also promote equitable income distribution and minimize environmental degradation.

26. Another vital component of poverty reduction would be further trade liberalization by both developed and developing countries. Developing countries should have wider market access, particularly for agricultural commodities and textiles, and the least developed countries should enjoy comprehensive and predictable duty- and quota-free market access. In addition, policies that encouraged foreign direct investment should be promoted in the developing countries and countries unable to attract investments should receive increased official development assistance and assistance from the multilateral financial institutions. Debt relief would also generate resources for the implementation of poverty reduction strategies in developing countries. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the recent initiatives by most of the developed countries, including the United States of America, Japan and Italy, to cancel the debts of the

heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC). Although primary responsibility for the implementation of poverty reduction strategies rested with individual countries, the international community should provide effective cooperation to that end, while respecting country ownership and the specific development strategies and priorities of developing countries.

27. Myanmar was addressing poverty reduction within the larger context of overall economic development. With nearly two thirds of its population employed in agriculture, food security, expansion of agricultural production and productivity were the main thrust of its development strategy. Efforts were being made to mechanize agriculture, expand cultivated acreage and establish large-scale farming and plantations; however, traditional farmers often lacked the essential fertilizers, machinery and high-yielding crop varieties for that purpose. The Government was encouraging the private sector to become more actively involved in the agricultural sector, and was establishing industrial zones throughout the country as an incentive to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. In an effort to expand infrastructure, it was constructing east-west and north-south strategic roads, access roads for rural areas, major river crossing bridges, clusters of irrigation systems and multi-purpose dams and reservoirs. Basic health and education services were accorded top priority. In that connection, he expressed appreciation to those United Nations agencies and civil society organizations which had supplemented government efforts to provide basic health services at the grass-roots level. Increased flows of foreign direct investment and multilateral and bilateral assistance would undoubtedly give further impetus to those efforts. In conclusion, poverty eradication was a global problem which called for global political will, global ownership in addition to country ownership and a concerted and coordinated approach at the international level.

28. **Mr. Maruyama** (Japan) said that poverty and inequality were still rampant in the world today. Indeed, the average income for the richest 20 per cent of countries was 37 times the average for the poorest. While in east Asia, per capita incomes were more than seven times what they had been in 1960, in sub-Saharan Africa and other least developed countries, they were lower, in real terms, than they had been in 1970. That had been compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which had reduced life expectancy by 17 years in at least 10 countries. It was evident that Africa continued to require special attention. Therefore, his Government called on the international community to redouble its efforts to promote African development and to achieve the goal of halving by 2015, the proportion of the population that was living in extreme poverty.

29. While there was no consensus as to how to put an end to poverty, there seemed to be clear linkages between poverty and environmental deterioration, conflict, basic education, safe water and natural disasters. While globalization had the tremendous potential for creating new opportunities for humanity, it must be ensured that its benefits were made available to all, otherwise it might widen even further the gulf between people at different stages of development. His Government requested the United Nations system to work with the Bretton Woods institutions, especially the World Bank, in a coordinated manner in order to facilitate cooperation with the private sector and civil society. The United Nations should also promote collaboration with bilateral donors. His Government had been facilitating so-called multi-bi cooperation, which it believed provided a way for the comparative advantages of multilateral and bilateral agencies to be utilized more efficiently and effectively and for the impact of development activities to be reinforced. Accordingly, his Government would like to promote multi-bi cooperation more actively together with the United Nations funds and programmes for poverty alleviation.

30. **Ms. Comella** (Andorra) said that in order to protect the most vulnerable groups, any policy to combat poverty at the national level should be reinforced by true commitment and support at the international level. Establishing economic and social policies to combat poverty was all the more difficult for debt-burdened countries. Her delegation welcomed the results of the Group of Eight summit meeting in Okinawa in July 2000 as part of the initiative to help heavily indebted poor countries. That commitment was a first and very positive step to reducing the level of poverty.

31. Any policy to combat poverty should target women, as they continued to be the most affected. In the long term, reducing the number of women living in poverty would enhance production and make it possible to reach a true level of sustainable development. She welcomed the micro credit initiative

as a tool to create productive employment and strengthen the autonomy and entrepreneurial spirit among women living in poverty. Eliminating poverty among women would also help children and thus break a vicious circle.

32. The fight to eradicate child poverty was the most urgent. The percentage of children living in poverty was increasing because of economic crises, ethnic conflicts and civil wars, and, over the past few years, because of the AIDS pandemic.

33. When looking at poverty it was necessary to take into account non-monetary parameters, for conflicts, pandemics and environmental degradation all had an impact on poverty. That should be borne in mind when considering the statistical forecasts regarding poverty elimination.

34. **Mr. Ouch** (Cambodia) said that poverty alleviation, food security, housing and meeting the basic needs of vulnerable groups were his Government's top priorities. To achieve those objectives, it had articulated a triangular strategy. The three pillars of that strategy were peace and stability, integration of Cambodia into the international community and development and reform of its fiscal, administrative and judicial structures. While peace and stability had been established, Cambodia was continuing to take the necessary steps to integrate itself fully into the international community, while carrying out the tasks of internal development and reform.

35. Getting out of the poverty trap was a major concern for a substantial majority of the population in both rural and urban areas. The links between economic vulnerability and poverty needed to be thoroughly understood in order to focus on priority issues and problems that impeded efforts aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability.

36. His Government's development goals for the year 2010 included reducing the level of extreme poverty by half, raising adult literacy to over 90 per cent, ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation for everyone and achieving greater gender equality.

37. At the international level, rapid globalization had widened inequalities between and within countries. As a result, many developing countries, especially the least developed ones, ran the risk of being marginalized. The United Nations and international organizations could play an important role in coordinating and strengthening cooperation between national Governments, the international community and financial institutions so as to ensure that the benefits of globalization were fairly distributed among the nations and peoples of the world. While poverty alleviation was the primary responsibility of national Governments, international action was extremely important. Issues such as the high levels of external debt, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the transfer of resources and new technology to developing countries must be addressed together in a spirit of genuine partnership and equity.

38. **Ms. Cruz** (El Salvador) said that since the World Summit on Social Development, the eradication of poverty had been a major component and objective of national development programmes, especially in developing countries. However, despite commitments by the international community, the progress achieved had been insufficient; that underscored the need for more concerted efforts to achieve the goals of poverty eradication. She highlighted the measures taken by her country and encouraging results achieved to reduce the levels of poverty, including the five-year development plan, known as the new alliance. Unfortunately, progress had been adversely affected by external economic and financial crises. That situation made it highly unlikely that the international commitments made at recent United Nations conferences, including the challenge of reducing by half the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, would be achieved.

39. She therefore welcomed the recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to deal with the problems of globalization. In that regard, market opportunities needed to be opened up for developing country exports, transfer of information, skills and technology should be promoted and there should be increased financial resources for investment. However, maximizing the benefits of globalization also required sound domestic policies supported by an enabling global environment and by international economic cooperation. In that regard, her delegation supported the role of the United Nations as the only international organization that had a broad system of operational activities focusing on the eradication of poverty. The strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations, Bretton Woods institutions and civil society would be vital for the success of poverty eradication programmes at the national and international levels.

40. *Mr. Niculescu (Romania) resumed the chair.*

41. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda) said that it would take a long time to eradicate poverty because of the rapid changes occurring in the world. However, the international community's immediate concern should be to alleviate suffering and to progressively reduce poverty with a view to eradicating it in the long run. To achieve that objective, it was necessary to address the root causes of widespread poverty, which were both internal and external in nature. For that reason, the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty must receive attention both at the national and international levels if the international community was to achieve any measure of success by the year 2015.

42. At the national level, Governments must show more commitment in their economic and social policies by, inter alia, creating a framework for economic growth and structural transformation; taking actions which directly enhanced the quality of life of the people, for example, by providing increased access to education and health care; and taking actions which directly increased the ability of the poor to raise their income, including through the empowerment and advancement of women.

43. At the international level, emphasis should be placed on increasing and fulfilling commitments regarding wider and deeper debt relief to poor countries, increased official development assistance, greater market access for products of developing countries and strengthening of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Emphasis should also be put on guaranteeing the integration of all developing countries into the increasingly globalized world economy and reducing the risks of marginalization, increasing assistance to complement national efforts in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing countries, and strengthening the role of the United Nations in dealing with the issues of economic and social development.

44. His Government was fully committed to the objective of reducing poverty and had taken bold steps to formulate and implement sometimes policies to that effect even when they were unpopular. In the current financial year, it had identified poverty reduction as the main goal of the national budget and had accorded preference to increased expenditure in the key social sectors of the economy. It was important to ensure that such individual national efforts were sustainable and properly coordinated at the regional and international levels. In that regard, he urged the international community to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

45. **Mr. Wilson** (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) speaking on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) said that regional and international organizations were continuing to collaborate with national governments and civil society groups in the Caribbean area to implement poverty alleviation programmes. The main emphasis was on establishing specific mechanisms to reduce the inequities facing the poor.

46. Poverty reduction was a multi-dimensional issue; there were linkages between poverty and education, health, labour markets, gender relations and ethnicity. Poverty was more prevalent among those with less schooling and formal training, the malnourished, the unemployed and marginalized ethnic groups.

47. CARICOM recommended that investments be made in human capital for education and health, and that Government should intervene to ensure that public resources were used to subsidize those most in need. Remedial action should be taken on labour market policies, with strategies for youth training programmes and other incentives, paying greater attention to the gender gap.

48. The process of globalization, and particularly trade liberalization, was increasing the level of poverty in the Caribbean, and CARICOM was facing the challenge of how to engage in a competitive game on an unequal field, while implementing effective national policies to work towards sustainable economic and social development.

49. There had been scepticism concerning the claims that female heads of households were more prone to poverty than male headed households. The data, however, indicated that poverty was not uniform among the female and male sections of society. A major cause of that appeared to be differential access to resources. For a clearer picture to emerge, data would have to be gathered on a routine basis. Poverty was shaped not only by income but also by access to education and other services, and resulted in hunger

and malnutrition, ill health, and social discrimination and exclusion.

50. The Caribbean countries had been undergoing major economic and social reforms since the 1980s. Their economies were dependent not only on the inherited economic structures, which were changing, but also on the vulnerability of the subregion to natural disasters.

51. The poor of the subregion included the elderly, children, the disabled, small-scale farmers, unskilled workers, the indigenous population and in some countries female-headed households, as well as the underemployed and unemployed. The status of those persons could be improved by providing employment and training opportunities. The poor should be given urgent attention, and at the very least not be disadvantaged by education or the economic environment.

52. The strategies devised should not rely solely on macroeconomic policy to solve unemployment problems, but should also acknowledge the need for labour market policies to be integrated into the macroeconomic framework for positive reinforcement. Taking into account the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the CARICOM group was devising plans and policies to achieve high economic growth rates, increase productivity, encourage small enterprises, develop social contracts and partnerships, increase the equitable distribution of benefits, strengthen institutions for policy analysis and management, and seek participation in the global economy and regional economic integration. CARICOM countries were prepared to be a part of that process and to meet their commitments.

53. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that although some progress had been made towards reducing poverty, the gains had been unevenly dispersed. Overall development assistance had considerably declined. While some development partners were making efforts to reach the target levels for official development assistance, others had reduced their level of aid. More and more developing countries were having to use their resources for debt servicing and wealth was becoming further concentrated in a few developed countries.

54. Globalization had brought overwhelming benefits and opportunities to countries that were already rich, while poor countries had lost their existing safety nets without gaining a replacement, as people lost jobs and their skills lost relevance in the new economy. Developing countries continued to face barriers to access to the technology and markets of the rich countries. Globalization was encouraging a flow of goods and services from rich countries to poor ones, but not much in the other direction.

55. The financial meltdown in East Asia had made it clear that globalization in itself was not a panacea and that it could be a source of global economic instability. The international financial infrastructure that had been established in the aftermath of World War II was no longer appropriate, and developing countries were being used as experimental grounds for the untested theories of development of the Bretton Woods institutions. Excessive intervention, including conditionalities relating to governance, development paradigms, privatization and so on, had often done more harm than good.

56. The ICT revolution had resulted in a widening gap between the rich and poor both among and within countries, thus further jeopardizing a conflict-ridden world.

57. He supported the Secretary-General's recommendations relating to poverty eradication, and noted the benchmarks set out in the Millennium Declaration. Development partners should meet the ODA targets of giving 0.7 per cent of their (GNP) to developing countries and 0.15 per cent of GNP to the least developed countries. Developing countries should be provided with greater and easier access to the rich countries' markets and technology and shall be helped to enhance their institutional capacities, mobilize domestic resources and build development infrastructure. Increased foreign direct investment would help to wean them away from official development assistance.

58. The least developed and land-locked developing countries should be given quota- and tariff-free access to rich-country markets. The better-off developing countries should offer more assistance in the form of South-South cooperation.

59. The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation must be revived, in order to reinforce and expand activities benefiting the peoples of the region.

60. His delegation looked forward to the high-level event on financing for development and the conference on the least developed countries planned for the

following year, and to the ministerial meeting on land-locked countries in 2003. Those events should give priority to poverty eradication.

61. **Mr. Mwakawago** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that while the root cause of poverty in many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, was underdevelopment, poverty had been perpetuated by high levels of external debt, declining resource flows and deteriorating terms of trade for commodities. In some cases, globalization and liberalization of the world economy had exacerbated the situation by marginalizing developing countries. Under those circumstances, it would be difficult to attain the target of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015.

62. Comprehensive poverty eradication required accelerated economic and social development in order to, inter alia, ensure food security, improve infrastructure and produce goods and services for regional and global trade.

63. The United Nations, through its relevant agencies, as well as the donor community, would need to render increased technical assistance and provide resources for development and investment.

64. Official development assistance (ODA) had declined steadily over the past 25 years. Resource flows would have to change dramatically if poverty was to be eradicated. His delegation expressed its appreciation to Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, for meeting and even surpassing the ODA target.

65. His delegation welcomed the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative but felt that much more should be done to ease the conditionalities to make relief available more expeditiously. Comprehensive and durable solutions would include debt cancellation measures.

66. Poor countries were striving to improve the production of goods and services; developed countries should make commensurate efforts to improve the terms of trade and ensure market access for those products. Potential investors and Governments should take advantage of the investor-friendly climate that Africa had created over the past 10 years.

67. Tanzania had been implementing various poverty reduction measures since it gained independence in 1961. The national poverty eradication strategy adopted in 1998, was designed to reduce by half the number of Tanzanians living in poverty by the year 2010, the ultimate goal being to completely wipe out poverty by the year 2025.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.